

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 195

July 23, 1997, 4:00 pm  
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## CONDEMNING CANADA FOR ILLEGAL BLOCKADE/Passage

**SUBJECT:** A resolution condemning the Canadian Government for failing to accept responsibility for the illegal blockade of a U.S. vessel . . . S. Res. 109. Passage.

### ACTION: RESOLUTION AGREED TO, 81-19

**SYNOPSIS:** As introduced and passed, S. Res. 109, a resolution condemning the Canadian Government for failing to accept responsibility for the illegal blockade of a U.S. vessel, expresses the sense of the Senate that the failure of the Government of Canada to protect U.S. citizens exercising their right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada from illegal actions and harassment should be condemned and that the President should use all necessary and appropriate means to compel the Government of Canada to prevent any further illegal or harassing actions against the United States or its citizens or their interests. Suggested means that may be employed include that the United States: may provide protection to U.S. citizens passing through the territorial sea of Canada; may impose an embargo on select Canadian products; may bar Canadian vessels from U.S. waters except in emergency situations; may embargo fish or shellfish taken in sport fisheries in the Province of British Columbia, Canada; or may enforce United States law with respect to all vessels in waters of the Dixon entrance claimed by the United States, including the area in which jurisdiction is disputed.

**Those favoring** passage contended:

From 8:00am Saturday, July 19, until 9:00pm Monday, July 21, Canadian fishing vessels illegally prevented a United States passenger ship from leaving a British Columbia port. That illegal blockade trapped more than 300 United States citizens, mail sent through the United States Postal Service, and perishable foods bound for communities in Alaska. The vessel was on a route that is an official part of the U.S. Highway System that serves communities in Alaska to which there are no roads. The fishermen detained the ship because of a fishing dispute on the Pacific Salmon Treaty between the United States and Canada. Canada walked out of

(See other side)

YEAS (81)				NAYS (19)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (51 or 93%)		Democrats (30 or 67%)		Republicans (4 or 7%)	Democrats (15 or 33%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Hollings	Chafee	Biden		
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Inouye	Gramm	Bingaman		
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Boxer	Johnson	Kyl	Breaux		
Bennett	Jeffords	Bryan	Kohl	McCain	Dodd		
Bond	Kempthorne	Bumpers	Levin		Durbin		
Brownback	Lott	Byrd	Lieberman		Graham		
Burns	Lugar	Cleland	Mikulski		Kennedy		
Campbell	Mack	Conrad	Moseley-Braun		Kerrey		
Coats	McConnell	Daschle	Murray		Kerry		
Cochran	Murkowski	Dorgan	Reed		Landrieu		
Collins	Nickles	Feingold	Reid		Lautenberg		
Coverdell	Roberts	Feinstein	Robb		Leahy		
Craig	Roth	Ford	Rockefeller		Moynihan		
D'Amato	Santorum	Glenn	Torricelli		Sarbanes		
DeWine	Sessions	Harkin	Wyden		Wellstone		
Domenici	Shelby						
Enzi	Smith, Bob						
Faircloth	Smith, Gordon						
Frist	Snowe						
Gorton	Specter						
Grams	Stevens						
Grassley	Thomas						
Gregg	Thompson						
Hagel	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						
Helms							

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

negotiations to resolve the dispute right before the Canadian national election of June, 1997, and has refused to resume negotiations. On July 20, a Canadian court correctly ruled that the blockade was illegal, but the Canadian Government did nothing to end it. In fact, the Canadian Minister of Fisheries said that he not only would not recommend that the law be enforced, he would not even ask the fishermen to desist from their act of holding an American passenger ship hostage because of the dispute. The blockade only ended when the fishermen voluntarily agreed to let the vessel leave port. We fully understand how volatile fishing issues can be, but both the action of those fishermen, and the inaction of the Canadian government, are inexcusable. The United States must not let this blockade go unanswered. We fully endorse taking the countermeasures recommended in this resolution until such time as Canada is willing to enforce international law and its own laws.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to passage.**